

M&O
Serials
QL 671UG 8 - 1938
.G84

CALIFORNIA
LIBRARY

SCIENCE

M O N T H L Y



GULL
B U L L E T I N

VOLUME 20

SAN FRANCISCO, AUGUST, 1938

NUMBER 8

Sequoia National Park

It was the writer's good fortune to visit for some days during the month of July Sequoia National Park, a beautiful and enchanted spot. The *Sequoia gigantea* you first see and admire, but after a few days among them you feel their presence and are then serene and happy. The Lodge, at an elevation of 6400 feet, is located in the midst of these magnificent trees, with "Round Meadow," your front lawn and flower garden, adjacent.

For those interested in wild flowers, the park is a veritable paradise—some meadows are literally carpeted with "shooting stars." On the High Sierra Trail from Crescent Meadow to Bear Paw Camp, one crosses many ravines where streams of water, some small, some large, seeking their way to lower levels, furnish ideal spots for ferns, tiger lilies, columbines, forget-me-nots, and many other species. Color combinations that only nature can furnish, fascinate the eye and appeal to the soul.

In River Valley Meadow, not far distant from Bear Paw Camp, the white lilacs were in full bloom and so abundant that their mild fragrance permeated the air. Occasionally the blue lilac was seen. Here also you find the Mariposa lily. One lone California poppy recalled the countless thousands in the valleys. Many other varieties grow in profusion.

For the bird enthusiast there is a never-ending source of delight and study—approximately 140 species summer and permanent residents, may be identified, some by observation, some by call or song, and others by just a glimpse in flight. You may study their habits and their habitats and try to learn at what altitudes you may expect to find certain species.

At Alta Peak, elevation about 11,200 feet, four Rosy Finches were seen on Friday, July 8th, one in flight and three feeding in the snow. For about a third of a mile below the summit the snow was very deep and difficult to ascend, but not to coast down.

On Sunday, July 10th, over two hours were spent in watching very closely an immature Golden Eagle on the nest. Very near the top of the "Watchtower," a high granite dome which overlooks Tokopah Valley and Falls, quite a ledge, probably 30 feet in length and varying from a few inches to several feet in depth, sloping downward and outward, furnished an ideal nesting site for this magnificent but lonely bird. An excellent opportunity to observe nest and bird is afforded as you have an unobstructed view of this ledge from the trail which brings you within approximately 50 yards of the nesting site, just across a very deep but narrow gorge.

The foundation for this year's nest was apparently the dry sticks used on previous occasions, to which has been added many green boughs, altogether a crude affair, resting on the rim of the ledge. The bird did not seem at all disturbed by the different observers who watched it for varying periods of time. It was quite large and seemed to be testing its wings, preparatory to the initial

flight, for on three different occasions it walked toward the edge, peered over with wings outspread and flapping, as if to take off, but each time after a short hesitation it turned and walked back to the inner part of the ledge. Adult birds were not seen, but visual evidence indicated they were very active and successful in their search for food. This ledge gradually decreased in width until it was a small crack in the granite wall and here a White-throated Swift had its nest; thus within 30 feet of each other a Golden Eagle and a White-throated Swift occupied opposite ends of a comparatively short ledge.

On Thursday, July 14th, at an elevation of about 8000 feet, the writer for the first time, after many unsuccessful efforts over a period of several years, located a male Grouse drumming—he was in a tall fir tree standing erect on a limb close to the trunk. Stretching forward his neck, he gradually inflated the air-sacs or drums of his throat and neck and almost immediately thereafter he began to drum—that booming sound so often heard but so difficult to locate. During the drumming, one can see plainly the space of orange-colored skin on the side of the neck. Drumming was repeated at short intervals and the bird gradually worked toward the top of the tree and took flight. Observation lasted about 20 minutes. Several females with chicks were flushed on the walk.

Other interesting birds seen at an elevation between 8,000 and 10,000 feet were the Cassin Purple Finch, Clarke Nutcracker, and the White-crowned Sparrow. The Townsend Solitaire was quite common but generally found at lower levels. The Western Pileated Woodpecker, not at all shy, was noted on three occasions at about 6,500 feet elevation. On Wednesday morning, the 20th, at 1:35 a. m., a call note—a frequently repeated whistle—was heard, probably that of the Saw-whet Owl.

The following is a list of seventy birds identified during this trip:

Turkey Vulture	Wood Pewee	Calaveras Warbler
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Olive-sided Flycatcher	Audubon Warbler
Cooper Hawk	Violet-green Swallow	Hermit Warbler
Red-tailed Hawk	Western Martin	Tolmie Warbler
Golden Eagle	Crested Jay	Pileolated Warbler
Sparrow Hawk	California Jay	Western Tanager
Sierra Grouse	Clarke Nutcracker	Black-headed Grosbeak
Valley Quail	Mountain Chickadee	Lazuli Bunting
Mountain Quail	Slender-billed Nuthatch	Calif. Purple Finch
Mourning Dove	Red-breasted Nuthatch	Cassin Purple Finch
Poor-will	Creeper	House Finch
Black Swift	Dipper	Rosy Finch
White-throated Swift	House Wren	Pine Siskin
Anna Hummingbird	Canyon Wren	Green-backed Goldfinch
Rufous Hummingbird	Western Robin	Green-tailed Towhee
Allen Hummingbird	Hermit Thrush	Spotted Towhee
Red-shafted Flicker	Russet-backed Thrush	Brown Towhee
Pileated Woodpecker	Townsend Solitaire	Junco
Red-breasted Sapsucker	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Chipping Sparrow
Hairy Woodpecker	Hutton Vireo	White-crowned Sparrow
Nuttall Woodpecker	Cassin Vireo	Golden-crowned Sparrow
White-headed Woodpecker	Warbling Vireo	Fox Sparrow
Ash-throated Flycatcher	Lutescent Warbler	Lincoln Sparrow
Western Flycatcher		

The following fourteen species were identified on previous trips:

Goshawk	Bush-tit	Golden-crowned Kinglet
Band-tailed Pigeon	Wren-tit	Yellow Warbler
Screech Owl	Rock Wren	Black-throated Gray Warbler
Calliope Hummingbird	Western Bluebird	Song Sparrow
Williamson Sapsucker	Western Gnatcatcher	

Joseph J. Webb, San Francisco, California. July 30, 1938.

An Incident in a Berkeley Garden

In a garden in Berkeley a pair of Chipping Sparrows abandoned their partly built nest. A guest suggested that it was her opinion that they had left their task for the lack of building material—namely, horsehair. Upon returning to her home in Marin County she told the story of the deserted nest to a group of school girls who frequently go horseback riding. They procured some material from their horses, which was mailed to the owner of the garden, who in turn put it out for the sparrows. In less than two days the nest was completed and family life went on normally. This might be an idea for women who have long hair.

Mrs. Mary L. Courtright, Larkspur, California. July 9, 1938.



July Field Trip

The July field trip was taken on Sunday, the 17th; starting at Lincoln Park, San Francisco, we walked along the road above the water to the Cliff House and then on to the Chain of Lakes in Golden Gate Park. The weather was foggy but not cold.

Several interesting birds were seen along the trail that leads to Land's End. Among these were the Pileolated Warbler, Wren-tit, Green-backed Goldfinch and the Russet-backed Thrush. All along the lower road we saw Pigeon Guillemots, sitting on the rocks, or swimming in the water, showing to good advantage their red feet and white wing patches. The most unusual observation of the day was a pair of Ravens which flew across the cliffs and settled down close by.

We were interested in seeing a small flock of Black Turnstones feeding on the deck of the wrecked oil tanker Frank H. Buck. On the rocks near the Cliff House was a Pigeon Guillemot's nest with one nestling, also nests of the Brandt Cormorants with young and a large number of Heermann Gulls.

While eating our lunch near a small pool in Golden Gate Park some of us were fortunate in seeing a Kingfisher fly by.

Birds seen along the cliffs were:

Brandt Cormorant	Barn Swallow	English Sparrow
Surf Scoter	Raven	House Finch
Black Turnstone	Barlow Chickadee	Pine Siskin
California Gull	Coast Bush-tit	Willow Goldfinch
Heermann Gull	Wren-tit	Green-backed Goldfinch
Pigeon Guillemot	Vigors Wren	Junco
Anna Hummingbird	Western Robin	Nuttall Sparrow
Allen Hummingbird	Russet-backed Thrush	Song Sparrow
Red-shafted Flicker	Pileolated Warbler	

In Golden Gate Park:

Mallard	Coot	Brewer Blackbird
Pintail	Quail	San Francisco Towhee
Ruddy Duck	Kingfisher	

A total of thirty-three species for the day. Eleven members attended the trip, namely: Mesdames Courtright, Ruby H. Thomas; Misses Blake, Cohen, MacIver, Olson; Messrs. Hansen, Johnson, Kirker, Myer, Wells, with three guests: Mrs. Deuprey, and Messrs. Casey and Greenhood.

Harold Kirker, Historian.



Audubon Notes

August Meeting: The regular meeting will be held on Thursday evening, the 11th, in room 19, Ferry Building.

The evening will be devoted to vacation experiences by members. Please come prepared to help out.

August Field Trip will be taken on Sunday, the 14th, to Tennessee Cove, Marin County. Purchase round-trip ticket to Manzanita and take 8:45 a. m. Sausalito Ferry. Bring luncheon.

Mrs. Ynes Mexia, Life member,
died July 12, 1938.

July Meeting: The 251st regular meeting was held on the 14th, in room 19, Ferry Building, with twenty-three members and guests present. First Vice-President Mr. B. K. Dunshee presided.

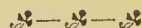
The following observations were reported:

Harold Kirker: Lake Merced, Audubon Warbler, May 28th (late).

Commander Parmenter: Sooty Shearwaters have been seen on ten different days since the last meeting. On Monday, the 11th, we saw a line from Mussel Rock heading northward, so we started south and reached about one mile south of Tunitas Beach before the line ended. We had traveled about twenty-three miles, the shortest line by sea from Mussel Rock. The length of the line of Shearwaters was probably about seventy miles, as we were nearly two hours on our route southward. We estimated that there were probably 70,000 Shearwaters in the line.

Long-billed Curlew: Mountain View marshes, twenty, July 7th; Western Willets: San Mateo Bridge about 125 and at Mountain View marshes, thirty, July 7th; Avocets: fourteen, Alvarado,

and two, Dumbarton Bridge, June 14th; Heermann Gull: thirty-two, Montara, June 10th, one hundred on the Cliff House rocks, July 14th; Forster Tern: forty, San Mateo Bridge, June 14th; Western Mockingbird, one, Mountain View between the Bayshore Highway and the center of town, July 7th.



Mr. Rodney S. Ellsworth, Director of the proposed museum of the Mt. Diablo State Park, gave an outline of the plan. First is the historical pageant of the Spanish period of de Anza; next an account of Doctor John Marsh and the building of his adobe house by the Indians, tilling of the soil, etc. Later came the geological reports of Dwight Whitney and the botanical notes and drawings of William Brewer. There is on Mt. Diablo a group of plants peculiar to that mountain top, an island left from Jurassic times. The most rare of these are the rock cress, *Arabis breweri*, *Sanicula saxatilis*, and *Streptanthus hispidus*.

All of these phases of the history of the park are being illustrated by oil portraits and panels and colored studies of plant life. The birds of the region are to be represented by original pastel studies from field observations. Mr. Ellsworth hopes by his enthusiasm to enlist the interest of the Audubon Association in this field work.

Audubon Association of the Pacific

Organized January 25, 1917

For the Study and the Protection of Birds

President.....	Mrs. G. Earle Kelly.....	1311 Grand St., Alameda, Calif.
Corresponding Secretary.....	C. B. Lastreto.....	260 California St., San Francisco
Treasurer.....	Mrs. A. B. Stephens.....	1695 Filbert St., San Francisco

Monthly meeting second Thursday, 8 P. M., Room 19, Ferry Building.

Address Bulletin correspondence to Mrs. A. B. Stephens, Editor, 1695 Filbert St., San Francisco.

Membership dues, payable January 1st, \$3.00 per year.

Student memberships, \$1.50 per year.

Life memberships, \$50.00.

Members are responsible for dues until written notice of resignation is received by Treasurer.